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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

Washington, D. C.

January 29, 1951

To the Faculty, Committee Members and others associated with the Graduate School:

Welcome support

for GS came recently from BAE's staff development committee. In a memorandum to all BAE employees in Washington, the committee noted "employees are expected to take advantage of training opportunities to improve their performance and to prepare themselves for increased responsibility." In this connection they outlined the opportunities afforded by GS; that course credits are wholly acceptable to the Civil Service Commission in meeting educational qualification requirements and that they may be transferred to a number of colleges and universities in fulfillment of course requirements for a degree.

The committee - composed of W. T. Wolfrey Jr., Emerson M. Brooks, Winn F. Finner, Karl A. Fox, J. Richard Grant, Buis T. Inman, T. Wilson Longmore, John J. Morgan, Glenn D. Simpson, Hugh L. Stewart, and William K. Bing - said, "Most of us speak from experience in stating that the caliber of subject matter and instruction compares favorably with that of the better college and university departments of Agricultural Economics, Rural Sociology, Statistics, etc."

The committee has asked for ideas and suggestions as to courses offered, class schedules, method of instruction, or any related aspects for improving the services of GS to BAE.

Some questions on veteran training

following the delimiting date of July 25, 1951 are clarified in VA's technical bulletin, TB 7-131. The law provides that training must be initiated prior to that date or 4 years following discharge, whichever is the later. VA interprets this to mean that a veteran who completes undergraduate study in June 1951 and wishes to progress to a graduate course in September 1951 will be able to do so provided he files his request with VA prior to the completion of his undergraduate work and enters graduate study at the end of summer vacation. The fact that he changes institutions for this purpose will make no difference if other qualifications are approved.

"Design for Defense"

is the title of a GS symposium published by the American Council of Public Affairs. It contains papers on "Public Opinion" by Max Lerner, "Technology" by Walter Rautenstrauch, "Diplomacy" by Adolph A. Berle Jr., and "Agriculture" by John D. Black.

If you are wondering how you happened to miss hearing about this symposium, let me hasten to explain that it was given in 1941. But many of the points made have considerable meaning today.

Miss Jensen tells me we have 90 copies of the pamphlet in the GS bookstore. The sale price is 35 cents a copy.

The wish to assist others

to similar opportunities is expressed by Dean H. E. Longenecker of the University of Pittsburgh in a letter describing the experiences of a Pitt graduate student who served as a USDA intern at the Northern Regional Laboratory. Writing to T. Roy Reid, Dean Longenecker said the student has returned to complete his doctoral studies, based in part on the work undertaken under "your Research Intern Program. His experience and all the relations leading to it were the finest." The student, Joseph Fugger Jr., served as a chemist (GS-7) from July 22, 1949 through September 15, 1950.

And on this same subject: Persons interested in further training for governmental work now have the opportunity to apply for the Lucius N. Littauer fellowships at Harvard Graduate School of Public Information for the academic year beginning next September.

C. J. Lapp of the National Research Council has asked our help in notifying persons interested in fellowship opportunities in the sciences. Among these are RCA predoctoral fellowships in electronics. You can get further information on this from Mr. Lapp at NRC, 2101 Constitution Avenue.

An optimistic note

on advances in the printing industry--in the making--comes from an article by H. M. Silver in the autumn issue of THE PACIFIC SPECTATOR. He points out that after 400 years metal types are being challenged by film composition, now being developed by five well-qualified concerns. The 130-year old technique of lithography is bursting with discoveries. An absolutely different method of printing - Xerography - has been invented. The automatic bindery has actually appeared. More than 260 research projects are under way in various branches of printing and its allied industries.

These prospects are of keen interest to those of us who would like to expand the GS publications program. The publications committee, incidentally, has recommended that the Jerzy Neyman manuscript "Lectures and Conferences on Mathematical Statistics," be printed by a Rahway, N. J. firm. The selling price of the book will be decided at the February meeting of the committee. At that time J. K. McClaren will report on the royalty policy. Publication of this book marks the second use of the publications revolving fund set up by the General Administration Board last June. R. T. Hall (FS) is the new chairman of the committee and Caroline Sherman (BAE) is a new member.

Did you happen to see

"Notes on the Margin" in the WASHINGTON POST for January 21 and the comment on Ralph R. Shaw's publishing venture, the Scarecrow Press? Telling how Shaw is getting some books into print that would not otherwise see the light of day, the news note reports that he has published two titles: "A History of Libraries" by Alfred Hessel, translated by Reuben Peiss, and "Literary Property in the United States," a look at copyright by Ralph R. Shaw. The next book in his experiment will probably be a national bibliography of Haiti, of about 900 pages. Ralph selects only books that represent scholarly research, that have a limited appeal of probably not more than 500 copies, and that can not be published by University presses. He sells the books through direct mail advertising to selected groups.

"Former China Envoy Teaches Course in World Relations" by Marcia Hoverson in the January AERA REPORTER? This feature story gives the highlights of Nelson Trusler Johnson's experiences in the diplomatic service that gives him an unusually rich background as a teacher of the GS course "American Foreign Relations, Policies and Practices

Two new books

recently added to the GS collection in the USDA library are:

"Communicating Ideas to the Public", by Stephen E. Fitzgerald.
262 pages. Funk & Wagnalls in association with Modern Industry magazine.

"The Art of Teaching" by Gilbert Highet. 282 pages Knopf.

The first will be of value to agency administrators and to information specialist. Fitzgerald, a public relations man in New York, was a wartime hand in Washington and known to many of you as director of information for WPB. He makes extensive use of government information problems to illustrate his thesis that public relations is the art of public behavior. Publicity, when it is most useful, is a tool of public relations policy. He shows that the company or organization which has but one audience is rare indeed. Usually there are many. Each of these audiences may require a specialized approach. The chapter dealing with some experiments in communications highlights recent research in the field. The findings support his conclusion that an informational campaign calls for a variety of media, including, if at all possible, the face-to-face approach. The remainder of the book explains important features of the media—the press, radio, television, special events, and public opinion polls, and offers practical advice on how to use each of them.

Professor Highet, an Englishman now teaching at Columbia, describes his as a book of suggestions drawn from practice. He underscores his concept of teaching as an art. "It seems to me very dangerous to apply the aims and methods of science to human beings as individuals. A scientific relationship between human beings is bound to be inadequate and perhaps distorted." In his examination of methods, the author says that lecturing, the Socratic tutorial system, and class discussions on previously studied material are all equally good for different purposes. The important thing is the final impression. "A good teacher with a good class," he observes, "need only be sure of the importance of applying the fixatives. Then if he first explains briefly what he is doing, he and his students can go together over the ground, growing familiar with the features they now recognize together, asking and answering questions as they travel, and pointing out the peaks still to be scaled, the valleys unexplored. This is the best kind of teaching. On this level it stops being the mere transmission of information and becomes the joint enterprise of a group of friendly human beings who like using their brains."

Rapprochement of ethics and the policy sciences

is the most promising way of reestablishing ethics as an important part of the education of American youth, says Wayne A. R. Leys in the November issue of the JOURNAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION. Mr. Leys is engaged in research on "the ethical analysis of policy questions," a study financed by a grant-in-aid from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Defining policy sciences as those which clarify the process of policy making in society or supply data needed for making rational judgments on policy questions, Leys includes studies of administration (public, school, social-service, personnel, and business) and the instruction of persons whose business it is to give counsel and guidance. These include psychology, social work, educational and vocational guidance, pastoral theology, and some parts of corporation law.

Leys argues that practitioners in these fields need exactly the kind of criticism and clarification which philosophically trained teachers are able to supply. He would have the teachers familiarize themselves with the context and vocabulary of choices faced by these professions and teach the whole art of deliberation and criticism so that students will learn how to arrive at positive decisions.

Newest GS staff member

is Registrar M. Louise Sullivan, who in February comes to us from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio where she has served as political science instructor for several years. A New Englander, Miss Sullivan holds the BA and MA degrees from Radcliffe College. She gained her first Government experience as a participant in the internee training program conducted by the National Institute of Public Affairs.

ABOUT OURSELVES

John J. Corson, who is teaching the spring semester course, "Top Executive Leadership in Public Administration," recently resigned as assistant business manager of the WASHINGTON POST to become a partner in McKinsey and Company, management consultants.

Henry Shryock, assistant chief of population statistics at Census, will replace Margaret Hagood, as instructor in "Population Statistics II," during the spring semester. Dr. Hagood is on leave from BAE to teach at the University of Wisconsin, where she is consultant on the application of the results of the 1950 census. Dr. Shryock, an alumnus of St. John's College, did his graduate work at Wisconsin.

Howard P. Barss, for many years head of GS Department of Biological Sciences, retired December 31 from the Office of Experiment Stations. For the past 17 years Dr. Barss served as administrator of Federal grant fund research at State Experiment Stations and as specialist in botany and plant pathology.

A member of our General Administration Board, Hugh H. Bennett, is the subject of a new book published by MacMillan, "Big Hugh, Father of Soil Conservation". The author is Wellington Brink, SCS information specialist.

Carl C. Taylor, chairman of the division of human relations in the Department of Social Sciences, has been named key member to serve as liaison between GS faculty and the Department of Higher Education of the National Education Association.

C. M. Purves of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics is co-author with John C. Hobbes of "Philippine Agriculture - It's Positions and Problems," in the January issue of FOREIGN AGRICULTURE. The article deals with the Bell Mission Report.

Pietro Lazzari, who teaches "Portrait Painting in Oil", has a one-man show of his paintings at White's Gallery in Washington in January.

Betty Tice, GS staff assistant, was married to George Strong, January 22. Mr. Strong is with the John McShain contracting firm. Mrs. Strong plans to continue her work in GS.

Certified Statements of Accomplishment

in administrative procedure have been awarded to Ernest A. Norwig and E. Viola Laursen. Mr. Norwig, who has advanced from junior administrative assistant to legal administrative assistant at the Patent Office since he enrolled in GS in the fall of 1946, completed 11 courses to earn his certificate. Miss Laursen, now secretary to the director of the District Unemployment Compensation Board, began work toward a certificate in the spring of 1944. At that time she was assistant clerk-stenographer at the Office of Research and Development. In addition to the 9 courses required for her certificate she has taken 3 other courses.

Sincerely,


Lewis H. Robb, Director